



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Release No. 07-02

July 6, 2001

Charleston AFB personnel install computers, get local school online

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Fourteen Charleston AFB personnel helped make computer training possible for Goodwin Elementary School by setting up a computer lab there June 25.

According to Sharon Kapicka, Goodwin Elementary media specialist and technology coordinator, Maj. Douglas Taylor, 437 CS commander, was contacted about the lab through school channels.

“We had the computers in boxes, and were just waiting for summer break to turn a classroom into a lab,” said Kapicka.

“Four of us went to the school early to survey the lab we were going to set up,” said Master Sgt. Doug Wagman, 437 CS network administration chief. “Even with our planning, we had to think on our feet when we actually got there Monday (June 25). Sharon (Kapicka) did a lot of before-hand things to make it easier on us, but it would have taken her weeks to set up everything on her own.”

Goodwin Elementary purchased the 30 computers through a government program that grants extra money to low-income schools for projects like establishing computer labs, according to

Wagman. When the team arrived, the computers were still in the boxes. Most of them had software loaded, but still needed some work to be connected as a network.

“We took them out of the boxes, wired them and had to install some software on each one,” said Wagman. “Six of them didn’t have LAN (local area network) drops, so we built them.”

Even though many of the volunteers were trained on computer networking, the software the school purchased was unfamiliar to most of them.

“They were all connected on the Novell network system,” Wagman continued. “I’m not familiar with that systems, but it was pretty easy to get everything running. We couldn’t set it up just like we do NT (Microsoft Windows NT) because they may do things differently.”

The entire project was complete in about 3 hours, according to Wagman. He said everyone who helped felt they were doing something good for the local community, and helping to make Charleston an Air Force town.

Along with this project, Wagman also recently volunteered his time to teach a second-grade class at Sanders-Clyde Elementary School.

“It’s like the old saying,” Wagman said. “If you give someone a fish, they’ll eat for a day. But, if you teach them how to fish, they’ll eat for life.

“These kids may not have the opportunity to learn about computers at home,” continued Wagman. “I really like being a part of a project that gives them the same chances other kids have.”

Kapicka said the help from Team Charleston made it possible to have the lab available when the students return in August. Without the volunteers, she said, the lab would have been delayed.

(For more information, contact Master Sgt. Daniel Murphy at 963-5582 or Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith at 963-5589)